43 1948

Young Negro Writes Note, Kills Self

The Voice
Birmingham, Ala.

A neatly penned note found at the side of a young Negro in an auto off Highway 78, east of Irondale, today told a story of suicide.

"I can only think of the common things of life," the note read, "the beaten path of a bum has been the road I've traveled for the last two years." Tues 2-17-48

The note was signed Pleas J. Kelley, Jr. It was addressed to "My Parents."

Coroner Joe Hilderbrand said a hose pipe connected with the exhaust of the auto was found inside the machine. An almost empty bottle of gin was also inside the auto near the body.

The note added he had tried to kill self twice before but "the other times I didn't have the guts."

Coroner Hilderbrand said the Negro youth lived at 4256 Morris Avenue. The coroner returned a finding of suicide. The Voice

Negro Tries To Shoot Policeman, Kills Self

The Voice - Age-Herald
Birmingham, Ala.

ATTALLA, Ala., Feb. 14—A Negro shot himself accidentally and died of the wound when he attempted to draw his gun on Attalla Police Chief Glenn Brown, who was pursuing him, Coroner Jess Cox said here Saturday.

The dead man, Roscoe Cope, had fired several shots at another Negro when Chief Brown arrived at the scene Friday night, the coroner said. Sun 2-15-48

Coroner Cox said Cope ran through a door and slammed it behind him as Chief Brown approached, and that Brown heard the shot from behind the door. The coroner said Chief Brown opened the door and found Cope lying on the ground wounded with his pistol beside him. Sun 2-15-48

Chief Brown said Cope told him the other Negro refused to pay $70 he owed to Cope.

Cope died before he could be moved from the scene of the shooting.

20 Suicides In October But None Are Negroes

The Atlanta Daily World
Wed 5-26-48

In October, as for a long time in this state, homicides predominantly involved Negroes, while suicides predominantly involved white people, according to a provisional tabulation prepared by the State Health Department's Bureau of Vital Statistics.

During that 31-day period, the tabulation revealed, 20 white persons and no Negroes committed suicide, while the state's 51 homicides involved 33 Negroes and only 18 white persons. 1-26-48

Similar ratios have prevailed for many years, it was revealed.

Girl, 14 Killed By Lover, 16, Who Then Slays Himself

Atlanta, Ga Daily World
Wed 5-26-48

NEW YORK—(NNP)—Funeral services were held last Friday for Clair Martin, 14-year old high school student, fatally shot by her 16-year old lover, who later committed suicide by slashing his own throat.

The body of Jonny Dozier, her lover, was shipped last Friday to New Orleans for burial.

The couple met a year ago when Clair was in the hospital for an appendectomy and Johnny came to visit one of his sisters, in the same ward with Clair.

Johnny was in the Merchant Marine and left the city for New Orleans before she was discharged from the hospital, but after his return here the two became inseparable.

Clair was an ardent churchgoer, a good student and showed promises as a singer. Johnny steered clear of school, putting his age up.

REFUSED MARRIAGE 5-26-48

When Johnny met and fell in love with Clair, he told his mother, Mrs. Willie Mae Dozier, that he was going to marry her. He later asked Clair's mother permission to marry her daughter. But Mrs. Martin refused. She said her daughter was too young— that she had to finish high school before she could think of such things.

According to Johnny's mother, Johnny became moody and melancholy, and told his mother that if he could not marry Clair he would never marry anyone else.

Johnny's mother decided to visit Clair's mother and make a plea for her son. She received the same answer from Mrs. Martin.

Meanwhile, Clair and Johnny were seeing each other every day. When Clair came home from school, she would rush through her home chores and then go up the street to Johnny's home. Daily World

Then, on Monday, May 17, came orders for Johnny to "ship out" the next day. As was her custom, Clair came home from school and hurried to Johnny's house. About 7:30 o'clock, Clair's mother passed Johnny's home on her way to night school and told Clair to go home and finish some ironing. Sometime later, according to Miss Eglantine Bog, Clair's godmother, Johnny was heard to tell Clair that if she attempted to leave, he would kill her.

SHOT HEARD

There was a shot, followed by silence, and when witnesses arrived in the hallway of Johnny's home they found Clair fatally wounded and Johnny also dead, his throat slashed by a razor held in his own hand. Atlanta, Ga.

Clair was to have celebrated her fifteenth birthday on May 19. The tragedy occurred on the thirtenth birthday of her younger brother, Leroy, a newsboy. Only the day before Clair had been auditioned by a radio studio. 5-26-48

Besides her mother and younger brother, Clair is also survived by a 9-year old sister, Dorothy.

Johnny is survived by three sisters and two brothers. Wed

The two lovers lived within 200 yards of each other on 119th Street, in a rundown tenement area once known as "Hell's Kitchen."

Before funeral services for Clair and the shipping of Johnny's body to New Orleans, the two were in the same funeral parlor.

Armour Station Couple Victims Of Tragedy

Daily World
Atlanta, Ga.
Thurs 6-3-48

Witnesses Say Two Fought Before Fatal Shooting

A 45-year-old husband—alleged to have been separated from his 27-year-old wife for two weeks—shot and killed her and took his own life at Armour Station Tuesday, County police reported.

The victims were Cleveland Bates and Mrs. Ruby Bates, whose residence was listed as 353 Currier place.

Police said the shooting occurred at Emma Fletcher's Place, 131 Mason t., in the Armour Station vicinity.

Operator of the Fletcher establishment, Mrs. Emma Fletcher, reportedly told police she was present when the shooting took place. She was quoted as saying Bates had come to her establishment on several occasions during the past two weeks to chat with his estranged wife. Thurs 6-3-48

On Tuesday he came in as usual and asked his wife to step outside to talk with him, Mrs. Fletcher reportedly stated. A few moments later, Mrs. Fletcher said she was startled upon seeing her employe bounding through the door way with the estranged husband in hot pursuit and exclaiming he was going to kill her, police reported.

CAUGHT AND SHOT

According to reported statements of Mrs. Fletcher, the couple raced through the place and the husband caught Mrs. Bates behind the establishment where he shot her in the side and turned the gun on himself.

Police said Mrs. Fletcher explained that she attempted to quell the disorder, but Bates pointed the gun towards her, necessitating her slamming the rear door to avoid the possibility of being shot. Daily World

Both victims were pronounced dead at the scene. The lethal .32-calibre pistol was found at the husband's feet, police disclosed.

A white furniture salesman in the vicinity told of developments that led up to the shooting, reports claimed. He reportedly told police that he had seen the couple fighting in the street just prior to their deaths. Reports further claimed he saw the wife strike the husband with a bottle while he grappled with her. Immediately after this altercation they ran through the Fletcher establishment when he heard two shots, he was quoted as saying.

An ominous injection to the death story was revealed when police reported Mrs. Fletcher as saying she was leaning against the store counter reading the newspaper death column when Bates entered the establishment and asked for his wife.

Late Wednesday funeral arrangements for the deceased couple had not been completed. Atlanta Ga.

"Bird Hunter" Found Dead; Called Suicide

Journal And Guide
Sat 5-22-48

Special To Journal And Guide

ANGIER, N. C.—With the explanation that he was going out "to shoot some birds," Edward Cofield, 25, left his home here last Wednesday and a short while later was found shot to death in a field near his home with a shotgun lying near his body. Norfolk Va

The death was subsequently pronounced suicide by the county coroner who said no inquest would be held.

The youth, a veteran of World War II and a junior agricultural student at A. and T. College, Greensboro, N. C., had been despondent for some time, according to his father, Exodus Cofield, and had been reluctant to return to school after spending the Christmas holidays at home.

Young Cofield attended A. and T. College prior to serving in the Army in the Pacific Theatre. The victim's father said that on the day his son met his death, he had agreed to return to school, and had ordered a taxi-cab. However, when the cab arrived, the son instructed the driver to return later.

Family Denies Rumor Of Race 'Martyrdom'

The Defender
Sat 5-29-48

WASHINGTON — James L. Walls, 43 year old civil service custodian, committed suicide Friday morning, by hanging himself in the basement of the Lincoln Memorial building. Chicago Ill

Walls, who has been employed for three years in the National Parks Service of the Capitol, was found dangling from a cross beam beneath the rotunda where the gigantic statue of "Honest Abe" sits contemplating the reflecting pool of the Mall by a fellow employee, Houston Johnson.

Neither Johnson nor the dead man's widow, Mrs. Bertha Walls, could give any reason for Walls sudden act of self destruction. Mrs. Walls stated that her husband left home in Brentwood, Md., seemingly in a cheerful frame of mind, had been in excellent health, and could ascribe the act to no hidden worries or financial problems. Johnson stated that Walls arrived at the Memorial building at his scheduled time talked with him briefly, and then descended to the basement to begin his daily duties.

Half an hour later Johnson found his body dangling from a cross beam by a rope expertly knotted about the dead man's neck.

Deny "Martyrdom" Rumor

Shortly after the news of the suicide broke, the rumor spread throughout the Negro settlements of the Capitol that Walls had taken his own life within the memorial as a quiet and mannerly, a to the "Great Emancipator" as a dramatic protest against the pattern of segregation and discrimination against Negroes in the nation's capitol.

This was denied by his widow, as well as by friends and fellow workers of the dead man and his superiors in the National Parks service. These latter described Walls as quiet and mannerly, a good worker, who seemingly enjoyed his duties in the memorial building. Wall's suicide is the first act of violence ever to occur in the vicinity of the Lincoln Memorial.

Walls is survived by his widow and two step children, Bernard, 21, and Mary, 20.

Police Chief Slain By Man Who Also Kills Own Wife, Self

Fayette Po

FAYETTE, Ala., Aug. 2—Three persons, including the chief of police, were killed here Friday night when the chief went to a home in an effort to settle a family quarrel.

Dead are Charlie Sides, 63, police chief; Dewey Freeman, 35, Negro, and his wife. Mr. Sides is a brother to W. F. Sides, a Bir-

mingham postman, of 717 South 85th Street.

Fayette County Sheriff Travis Lawrence said the tragedy was a double murder and suicide, and gave the following account:

* * *

FREEMAN'S WIFE got Chief Sides to go with her to her home to settle an argument with her husband.

Chief Sides took hold of Freeman when he reached the yard of the home. Freeman strruggled with the officer, and Chief Sides reached for his blackjack. The lead fell from the blackjack and made it useless.

Then Freeman grabbed the chief's gun and shot him twice, killing him instantly. Then Freeman shot his wife to death, lay down beside her body and took his own life with the pistol.

Chief Sides was widely known in Fayette County. He was deputy sheriff several terms before becoming police chief about a year ago.

He is survived by his widow, a daughter in Texas and his brother in Birmingham.

He will be buried at Fayette Sunday afternoon.

Minister Kills Wife, Cuts Own Throat, Then Drowns Self

By A. M. RIVERA JR.
(Staff Correspondent)

SANFORD, N. C.—Caleb Baxter McMillan, 59-year-old part-time preacher and farmer, murdered his wife, mother of their fourteen children, with a single shotgun blast in the presence of his three sons and then committed suicide by slashing his own throat and leaping into the Big Pocket creek. He had tied a rock around his neck with his belt.

The murder and suicide, still only partially explained by an eight-page note scribbled before McMillan killed his wife, Hattie Jane, occurred about 1:30 A. M., Wednesday, at their neat little newly painted farm house on Route 3 near here.

This little normally tranquil agrarian community was buzzing with excitement caused by the disappearance of Otis McNeil, a resident of the same community, whose lifeless form was recovered Saturday from Deep River.

Though gossip circulated quickly that there was a connection between the multiple deaths, McMillan's death note read: "I don't know anything about the death of McNeil, neither do my wife. It's other troubles."

TROUBLES AT HOME

The note, written on typewriter size paper, mentioned "Troubles at home." and said, "All seems to be against me."

Sheriff A. Glenn Buchanan said that McMillan's "trouble" had to do with something that happened while he was away from home during the period from May, 1947, to last January.

McMillan's note revealed that he intended to take his own life after killing his wife.

He directed that he and his wife be buried side by side "where we loaded the last logs."

Caleb J. McMillan, 19, described the unusual murder-suicide and related that he knew of no trouble which could have caused his father to become so desperately despondent. Caleb said, "Me and my brother, James, who lives at home, and Quincy, who was visiting, sat up late Tuesday night, and laughed and joked."

His father called his mother into the back room, he said, then his mother came back into the front room and went to bed. Shortly thereafter his father appeared in the doorway with a double-barrel shotgun and fatally shot his mother.

GRAPPLED WITH FATHER

The boys grappled with their father and forced him into the back room, where they were able to take the gun away from him. During the struggle, their father broke free and ran out into the darkness.

He was last seen alive by a workman who saw a man of his description early Wednesday morning heading East toward Raleigh, N. C.

His body was discovered by J. W. Pickard and C. T. Pickard of Sanford. Nearby, McMillan had taken off his overalls and jacket and hung them on a tree limb, tied a rock around his neck with his belt, cut his throat, then jumped from a steep bank into water three feet deep.

A double funeral ceremony was held Sunday and the McMillans were buried side by side in accord with last wishes as revealed in the suicide note.

'Flogger' Takes Life As Webb Maps Fight

Having been indicted on two separate counts of attempted murder and facing indictments on the same charge for allegedly flogging two Troup County Negroes—one of the alleged "Black Raiders," Sherman C. Keheley, commited suicide Wednesday, police said.

Although the Klan-linked defendant was reported to be the "key" witness in recent flogging terrorisms and said to have agreed to turn state's evidence, Fulton County Solicitor General Paul Webb declared Thursday that probings into the uncivil disorders will be pushed with unabated intensity.

Keheley, along with four other accused floggers, had been indicted by a Fulton County grand jury for flogging two white men — Joe C Berry and Bob Gravitt. Date of trials was set for May 11.

LEFT NOTE

The dead man was said to have left notes which indicated that he planned to take his life.

Divulging its contents in part, police said one of the notes read: "I can't stand to go on like this . . . I never have sworn to a lie . . . I have always tried to do the best I can by everybody."

A gauging shotgun wound in the chest claimed his life, police said. The lethal weapon was found at his side, they added.

FULFILLED KLANSMAN'S OATH

As talk of Keheley's death reverberates over the city, some observers speculate that he fulfilled his oath as a Klansman when he died since courthouse rumors implied he had made a deal to turn state's evidence. On the other hand, others speak of unbearable pressure from fellow Klansmen.

Keheley was recently identified by Limon Gates and Mrs. Mary Gates, of Troup county, as one of the "Black Raiders" who flogged them severely sometime ago.

Warrants for their arrest had been sworn out by Troup County Sheriff E. V. Hillyer. It was speculated that they would be indicted by the grand jury there when it convenes next month.

Other alleged "Black Raiders" charged with attempted murder include: R. B. Ellison, Lawrence Fortner, M. S. Camboia and Frank Brand. The Gates named a sixth suspect. His name was given as E. W. Mitchell.

A seventh suspect, tentatively identified as James R. Owens is said to still be at large.

INSTRUCTS MAID

The 58-year-old deceased utility linesman stopped by his sister-in-law's house to meet his wife Wednesday and, apparently becoming impatient, told the maid, Miss Lillian Young, to inform his wife she could find the keys to his car in his coat pocket which he hung in a clothes closet, police said.

Complying with instructions relayed by the maid, Mrs. Keheley also found therein a note which caused considerable alarm, police reported. She, with other relatives, went to their 979 Linam avenue residence and found Keheley dead on his bedroom floor. Police theorized he pulled the trigger with a stick which lay nearby. Another note was found at the Keheley home, police disclosed.

At the time of his death, police said he was out under $5,000 bond.

KKK WARNING BARED

Meanwhile, a local Negro minister reportedly turned over to the Solicitor's office a threatening note purported to be from the Klan.

Giving little value and credence to its Klan-linked veracity, Sol. General Webb said it read: "Stay out of politics . . . be a good preacher . . . cut out registering your people . . . don't be influenced by Northerners."

Takes Own Life After Wife Dies

Double Funeral Rites Tomorrow

A grief-stricken husband committed suicide Wednesday morning a few minutes after the death of his wife from high-blood pressure.

The victim, Lewis Lang, 43, 1101 Woodland, shot himself through the head with a .38 calibre revolver following futile efforts to revive his dying wife, Mrs. Lorene Lang, 43, at the Woodland address.

Police summoned to the scene by the couple's daughter, Mrs. Jessie Wright, found Lang's body with a bullet wound in the left temple, on the floor of a bedroom. The revolver lay near his outstretched hand. The body of Mrs. Lang was found on a daybed in the living room.

Mrs. Wright said that Lang was applying ammonia and cold packs to Mrs. Lang while Lang's brother-in-law, John Henderson, 1701 Woodland, had gone to get a physician. While waiting for the doctor to arrive Mrs. Lang died, said Mrs. Wright and Lang became hysterical.

The distraught husband handed her his billfold and personal belongings, Mrs. Wright said, and walked into an adjoining room. A moment later she heard a shot. She ran into the bedroom to find her father lying on the floor. Mrs. Wright said she had no idea Lang was going to take his own life when he walked from the room.

Henderson said he heard a shot just as he returned to the house with Mrs. Lang's physician. He identified the revolver as one which Lang kept in his dresser drawer. He said that Mrs. Lang is a sister, Mrs. Johnny Henderson, 1710 E. 18th St.

Double funeral services will be held tomorrow, Saturday morning, March 27, at 11 o'clock at the Henderson Brothers funeral home. Elder L. L. Boswell, pastor of Metropolitan Spiritual Temple, will officiate. Burial will be in Lincoln cemetery.

Surviving Mr. Lang besides his daughter, Mrs. Wright, are three brothers, Lewis Lang, Jr., Birmingham; Jesse Lang, Detroit, and Ernest Lang, Chicago, and a sister, Mrs. Lillie Lang, Birmingham.

WOMAN PREACHER COMMITS SUICIDE

The California Voice
San Francisco, Calif.
12-31-48

A woman minister found the death she sought in her church living quarters, Oakland police reported.

Fri 12-31-48

The body of Mrs. Viola Williams, 50 minister of the church at 1541 Seventh Street, was found slumped in a chair of the room she occupied in the rear of the church late Tuesday.

Fri 12-31-48

When police arrived they found the doors and windows of the room tightly closed and a circulating gas heater burning. Beside her body they found a note telling of Mrs. Williams' despondency over ill health and asking that her body be attired in sack-cloth for her funeral. 12-31-48

Discovery of Mrs. Williams' death was made by John H. Hogan, of 1529-A Seventh Street, who called at her home, police said.

The body of Mrs. Williams is at the Baker Mortuary. She is survived by two sisters, one in Cleveland, O., and one in Athens, Ga.

She was known as one of the greatest prophets or seers, and was minister of the Spiritual Way Temple.

Uses Shotgun to End Life

The Afro American
Left Note Blaming Studies for His Act
Sat 1-24-48
18 YEARS OLD
Pre-Medical Record Good, Says Official

WASHINGTON

An 18-year-old Howard University pre-medical student, Donald L. Gist, on Saturday was found dead, a shotgun by his side, in the home of Dr. W. A. Morgan, white, at 2610 31st St., N.W.

A native of Chicago, Gist had been employed by Dr. Morgan, prominent eye specialist, to do odd jobs around the house in exchange for his basement room rent. Dr. Morgan and his wife were in South America on vacation, and no one else was home at the time the shooting occurred.

The body was found around 1:15 p.m. Saturday by the doctor's mother-in-law, Mrs. Ogilvie Shumate of 3313 Connecticut Ave., Northwest.

Mrs. Shumate arrived at the home to see whether everything was all right and rang the bell, but there was no answer, Det. Sgt. John Curtis, homicide, said. She then started to the back and heard the dog barking.

After opening the door and calling to the maid, Miss Bernice Harris, who was out, Mrs. Shumate went into the basement and found the door to Gist's room ajar. Her chauffeur noticing the blood spattered wall and the shotgun called police. 12-31-48

Miss Harris reported to police that she called the young student for breakfast before leaving for a dental appointment and that he replied that he didn't care for any food. She returned to the house after police arrived.

Gist was an above B average student.

The note left indicated that he was studying too hard. A. W. Gordon, assistant dean of men at Howard University, said he was making good marks. A brother, O. Gerald Gist, 21, is a freshman at Howard University.

Coroner A. MaGruder MacDonald on Sunday issued a certificate declaring the death a suicide. The body was sent to Chicago this week for funeral services and interment.

Suicide Reported In Fatal Shooting Of Bell St. Man

While his wife and two children were vacationing out of the city a 39-year-old father, who had complained of his physical condition shot and killed himself Monday night at his residence, police reported. Daily Herald

The victim, J. T. Mosely, of 62 Bell St., S. E. Apt. 155 was found by investigating detectives sprawled on the bathroom floor of his apartment. Reports claimed two .38 caliber slugs had been pumped into his chest. At his side the detectives said they found a .38 caliber revolver. Tribune 12-31-48

The brother of the deceased Henry K. Mosley informed Detectives J. M. Pack and J. W. Ellington that he had accompained his brother to the doctor that afternoon for a check-up. The doctor's examination disclosed no irregularity; however, the victim reportedly told his brother that his condition was not normal. He appeared to have been worried for the past three weeks, detectives quoted the brother as saying. Call 1-2-49

Police were called to the scene by alarmed neighbors who heard the shots and felt that something was amiss.

The deceased was an employer of the Railway Express Company for the past 14 years, the brother pointed out.

"Mr. 5-by-5" kills 2, commits suicide

Tribune Los Angeles, Calif.
Sat 1-17-48

An outbreak of violent deaths broke the peace and calm of the Watts community this week and swelled by three the area's homicide record for the first three months of the year, also recording the first suicide in the vicinity for 1948.

In rapid succession, murders No. 2, 3, and 4 took place, two of them by the same man, who soon after committed suicide in a fit of remorse.

The double murderer was Howard W. Lee, 35-year-old "Mr. Five-By-Five." Police said Lee, who lived at 2243 E. 113th st., was four feet, 11½ inches tall and weighed 210 pounds.

His victims were his former girl friend, Mrs. Ruth Peace, 32, of 9524 Defiance ave. in whose house the shooting took place, and Maurice S. Ragland, 35, of the same address, whom police said had apparently supplanted Lee in the young woman's affections.

Mrs. Peace lived one and a half hours after Lee pumped four bullets into her. She died at Georgia Street Receiving hospital. Both Ragland and Lee were dead on arrival of police, Ragland sprawled in the kitchen of Mrs. Peace's home, and Lee lying on the curb two blocks away, a bullet hole two inches above his heart.

FIRED FROM DOOR Tribune

Police said Lee arrived at Mrs. Peace's home in a taxicab shortly before 9 a. m. Wednesday. He greeted the landlady, Mrs. J. Curry, occupant of the front house and went to the house Mrs. Peace occupied in the rear.

Pushing open the door with his left hand, he fired from the doorstep, four times at his ex-sweetheart and twice at Ragland. Ragland staggered into the kitchen and fell at the feet of Travis Walker.

Lee left and walked to 9515 Defiance where he was seen by Mrs. M. Flores, of 9517 Defiance to throw the empty shells from his .45 into the bushes. 4-17-48

He continued walking until he arrived in front of 9514 Compton where he met Johnnie Marseld, of 1554 E. 33rd st. Los Angeles Cal

Marseld said Lee told him he had just done "something dreadful to a girl" and was going to kill himself, whereupon he went to the curb and before the horrified eyes of Marseld and Mrs Anna Allred shot himself.

"IT FELT SO GOOD"

Pent-up frustrations in the breast of Mrs. Helen Ruth Bailey found a grisly outlet Monday morning when at the climax to a nagging argument she stabbed her common-law husband, George Joe, to death in their bedroom at 11821 Parmalee.

"It felt so good, I kept on stabbing him," Mrs. Bailey, 22-year-old Oklahoma native who has lived here only two years, told police. The killing followed a day of bickering, during which the two scuffled and struck each other with a bottle and stick.

Mrs. Bailey, employed as a maid, old police she stabbed her husband several times with a pocket knife as he reached up to pull the light cord, and over his surprised cries of, "Honey, it's me . . . It's me, honey."

Earlier she said, they had quarreled and Bailey had left the house twice for a nearby cafe where, when she followed him, he ignored her.

Coming back home in between visits to the cafe, Bailey fought with her, once hitting her with a stick, Mrs. Bailey said. She returned his blows, she told police with a Purex bottle.

Police were called by W. Payne, landlord, and Robert Barron, another roomer, who said they heard the couple quarreling and heard Bailey groaning at the rear of the house where he was lying. He was dead upon arrival of the ambulance.

Teen-Age Boy Kills Girl, Self

Journal Herald
Sat 12-5-48

Love Affair Ends In Tragedy After Marriage Is Halted

Dayton Ohio

By NNPA News Service

NEW YORK — Funeral services were held recently for Clair Martin, 14-year-old high school student, fatally shot by her 16-year-old lover, who later committed suicide by slashing his own throat.

The body of Johnny Dozier, her lover, was shipped Friday to New Orleans for burial.

The couple met a year ago when Clair was in the hospital for an appendectomy and Johnny came to visit one of his sisters, in the same ward with Clair.

Johnny was in the Merchant

MOTHER MAKES PLEA

—that she had o... Johnny's mother decided to ...school, before she ... visit Clair's mother and make ... such things. ... Johnny's mother, a plea for her son. She received ...me moody and the same answer from Mrs. ...nd told his mother Martin, Clair and Jo... ...could not marry Mearkville, ...uld never marry were seeing each other every ... day. When Clair came home ... was too young ... steered clear of school, putting ... his age up. ... When Johnny met and fell ... charged from the hospital, but ... in love with Clair, he told his ... after his return here the two ... could think of such ... became inseparable. ... mother, Mrs. Willie Mae Dozier ... According to John... **WAS ARDENT CHURCHGOER** ... that he was going to marry her. Johnny became ... Clair was an ardent church- ... He later asked Clair's ... goer, a good student, and show- ... mother's permission to marry ... her daughter. But Mrs. Martin ... that if he could ... Clair refused. She said her daughter ... he would ... anyone else.

from school, she would rush through her home chores and then go up the street to Johnny's home.

Then, on Monday, May 17, came orders for Johnny to "ship out" the next day. As was her custom, Clair came home from school and hurried to Johnny's house. About 7:30 p. m., Clair's mother passed Johnny's home on her way to night school and told Clair to go home and finish some ironing.

Some time later, according to Miss Eglantine Bog, Clair's godmother, Johnny was heard to tell Clair that if she attempted to leave, he would kill her.

There was a shot, followed by silence, and when witnesses arrived in the hallway of Johnny's home they found Clair fatally wounded and Johnny also dead, his throat slashed by a razor held in his own hand.

Clair was to have celebrated her 15th birthday on May 19. The tragedy occurred on the 13th birthday of her younger brother, Leroy, a newsboy. Only the day before Clair had been auditioned by a radio studio.

The lovers lived within 200 yards of each other, on 119th street, in a rundown tenement area once known as "Hell's Kitchen." Before funeral services for Clair and the shipping of Johnny's body to New Orleans, the two were in the same funeral parlor.

Investigation Civic Group Doubts Verdict of Suicide

Requests Autopsy on 'Hanged' Body of Man, 22, Found in Station Cell

PHILADELPHIA

The local branch of the NAACP is pushing an investigation into the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Russell Stewart, a 22-year-old construction worker, who reportedly hanged himself Thursday night in a cell at the Fourth and York St. police station.

At the request of Morris Shafritz, counsel for the NAACP and the dead youth's family, an autopsy was held Tuesday by the coroner, who had earlier ruled the death was a suicide, without performing an autopsy.

The NAACP had a pathologist on hand to watch the autopsy, but neither he nor the coroner's physician immediately made known their findings.

Held on Minor Charge

Stewart, who lived with his parents at 2324 N. Orkney St., was, according to police, found hanging in the cell where he was lodged to await a hearing on a charge of violating the uniform fireams act.

LeBerske, a patrolman attached to the station, said Stewart used a belt which police left in his trench coat to hang himself from bars running across the top of the 10-foot cell.

The patrolman said he had fingerprinted Stewart in the cell 35 minutes before the hanging was discovered. He said he passed the cell 25 minutes later and the youth was all right.

Scars Found on Face

Stewart had, according to Detectives Campbell and Adair, been in the cell from 6:45 to 8:45 p.m. before LeBerske made his discovery.

The NAACP became interested in the case after it was learned that Stewart had, in addition to strangulation marks around his neck, bruises of the face. These scars, Shafritz said, were unexplained.

Members of his family could give no reason why Stewart would commit suicide; nor could either of two men who were arrested at Sixth and Norris Sts. with Stewart and later discharged, account for such an act.

Leap Fatal To Nurse

Birmingham Girl Killed in Atlanta

(Special to The Courier)

ATLANTA, Ga. — Apparently despondent over failures in studies at Grady Hospital Nursing School, 19-year-old Lucretia Wilson of North Birmingham, Ala., Saturday leaped to her death from the roof of the new colored nurses home.

The attractive student nurse died almost immediately after her body hurtled five stories to the concrete pavement below.

Two notes left by Miss Wilson indicated that she had made up her mind the night before her fatal leap. One message was written to a roommate, Miss Sadie Bell. While the other was addressed to her instructor in anatomy, Miss Ethel Hilliard, white.

She was the daughter of Willie Wilson, who was killed in a Birmingham area coal mine June 2 when a rock fell on him. Her mother was vacationing in Cleveland, Ohio, at the time the daughter leaped to her death.

The note Miss Wilson left to her instructor said the student had done her best in studies. She had been informed by a nursing official the day before the leap that she had failed in her studies and that she would not be capped in the ceremonies scheduled for Friday night, Sept. 3.

Complete text of the note to Miss Hilliard follows:

"I did my best; please believe this. All my life I dreamed of being a nurse. I could not make good marks. But, I said to myself I have common sense. I can give my patient the best care. I cannot receive my cap so I will take the coward's way out. I never met a nicer and more intelligent person than you. If only I had one-third of your brains. I only hope God understands and forgives me. I thought of the river but I do not know one so I will jump off the roof. I hope to die quickly and it isn't painful. Tell my mother, please, I was not successful, but I was alway a lady, because she said that was the most important thing in life. Goodbye classmates.

"Thanks for being a grand teacher.

"Mother: Mrs. Katie Ruth Jones; stepfather: Reanie Jones; phone 59-2348; Birmingham 6, Ala

"An unknown student,

NURSE WILSON."

ROOMMATE'S NOTE

The deceased wrote her room mate:

"Dear Sadie:

"Give my things to my mother Watch, rings are in black bag Make sure she has everything. I love you. I am a coward. I have to die. Love to many friends.

"An Unknown Student."

A resident of the Old Nurses Home on Butler Street, Miss Wilson went to the new home for classroom work. A fellow student nurse accompanied her to the roof where she said she desired to pick some rocks. She jumped over the side of the building as soon as the two got to the roof. The questioned survivor said. At least two persons saw the body falling through the air and heard the impact. She had entered the Nursing School in March.

BAD CONDITIONS

Although nothing officially connected the student's death leap to a reported general ill-feeling and dissatisfaction of Negro nursing students at Grady Hospital, almost as soon as the suicide had been reported a general censorship was clamped around those on the grounds of the municipal set-up, while there was undercover talk of the "bad conditions."

The Courier's report of two weeks ago, describing virtual slave conditions for Negro student nurses at Grady, seemed to pack weight, although officials contended the cases mentioned involved "incorrigibles" and "unfit" students.

Students coming into the Atlanta community have been fairly free in reporting that a genuine jim crow and discriminatory system state exists at Grady with Negro students being treated more as servants than otherwise.

At last reports, Atlanta citizens had not looked into the municipal set-up and the complaints of the Negro nurses, but the suicide promised to bring forth activity and possibly a probe. Hospital Supt. Frank Wilson is known as a close-[illegible] executive.